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The companion comets were not observed in 1896-97, and no trace of them could be seen with the 36-inch this year.

It may be added that GIACOBINI's periodic comet (1896, V) has so far escaped detection on its present return, though it is favorably situated, according to theory, and has been carefully searched for with both the 12-inch and the 36-inch telescopes.

The two other periodic comets that are now in the neighborhood of the Sun, FAYE's well-known comet and PERRINE's comet (1896, VII), are very unfavorably placed, and the dense banks of smoke and haze that have hidden our horizon for some weeks have prevented any effective search for them.

September 22, 1903.

R. G. AITKEN.

OBSERVATIONS OF THE WHITE SPOT ON SATURN.

The following observations of the white spot on *Saturn* were made with the 36-inch refractor, in the course of other work. No attempt was made to observe the spot systematically.

1903, July 17.—Spot transited planet's meridian at 23^h 31^m 15^s Gr. M. T. Equatorial diameter of spot (observed), 1".25; polar diameter of spot estimated to be two thirds of the equatorial diameter. Power, 520.

1903, August 23.—17^h 18^m Gr. M. T. Spot estimated to be 1" past the planet's meridian. The spot is larger and more conspicuous than on July 17th. The spot is divided by a very narrow dark east-and-west belt.

C. D. P.

September 17, 1903.

VISUAL OBSERVATIONS OF THE SPECTRUM OF NOVA GEMINORUM MADE WITH THE 36-INCH REFRACTOR.

The spectrum of *Nova Geminorum* was observed visually with the one-prism spectrograph on the mornings of August 17th and 18th. The star was invisible in the finder, so that no estimate of magnitude could be made. Nothing could be made out either at H _{α} or D. The three chief nebular lines were, however, very well developed, that at H β being faint, λ 4959 somewhat stronger, and that at λ 5007 very much more intense. There was probably also a very faint line visible near λ 4700, but too faint to identify with accuracy. The lines seemed